

United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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MAR 11 2020

Ken Marcy, National Priorities List Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Oregon Operations Office
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, Oregon 97205

Dear Mr. Marcy,

This letter is in response to your email to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) dated February 11, 2020 requesting information on species listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) that may inhabit or use Bradford Island in the lower Columbia River. This information is requested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for use in preparing listing package for Bradford Island, which is under review for addition to the Superfund National Priorities List.

Please note that all requests for an official species list must be made through the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website, which can be accessed at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. A request to IPaC will result in an official letter from the Service listing all the species and critical habitat in the vicinity of your proposed action that should be considered under Section 7 of the ESA. This list is comprehensive, and will report all species that could use the site even if they are presently not found at the site.

Currently, information from biologists within our office indicate that bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) would be the only listed species under the Service's jurisdiction found at or within the vicinity of Bradford Island. Bull trout are federally listed as threatened, and bull trout critical habitat (initially designated in 2005 and revised in 2010) includes the aquatic habitat in the

INTERIOR REGION 9 COLUMBIA-PACIFIC NORTHWEST

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Columbia River around Bradford Island. This area of lower the Columbia River is designated as foraging, migration, and overwintering habitat for bull trout, but bull trout do not currently use the area for spawning and rearing. Historically, bull trout likely ranged widely throughout much of the Columbia River Basin, including the lower Columbia River. Presently, few fish have been observed within the area (anecdotal sightings or captures of bull trout in the mainstem Columbia River included nine fish from 2000 through 2005). For additional information on bull trout, see <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?spcode=E065>.

In addition to bull trout, there are several species of concern to the Service that could inhabit waters along the Bradford Island shoreline. Species of concern are those taxa that receive no legal protection under the Federal ESA but whose conservation status remains uncertain and further information is needed. These species include Pacific lamprey (*Lampetra tridentata*) and several mussel species including the winged/California floater (*Anodonta nuttalliana*), Oregon/western floater (*Anodonta oregonensis*) and possibly the western ridged mussel (*Gonidea angulata*) and western pearlshell (*Margaritifera falcata*). Pacific lamprey adults will use the area as a migratory corridor, and larval lamprey could be found in sediments around Bradford Island. Conservation information and a report on best management practices to minimize adverse effects to lamprey is available from the Service at <https://www.fws.gov/pacificlamprey/mainpage.cfm>. Among the mussel species, winged/California floater and western ridged mussel have been found at Bonneville Dam and would likely be near Bradford Island. Information on conservation of freshwater mussels is available from the Xerces society (<https://xerces.org/endangered-species/freshwater-mussels>).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, or our shared responsibilities under the ESA, please contact Jeremy Buck or Chris Allen of my staff at 503-231-6179.

Sincerely,


 Paul Henson, Ph.D.
State Supervisor